

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies program prepares students to think and write analytically through a historical framework. Students will learn how to question and formulate original opinions while being exposed to a chronological history of several focus points. It is intended that every student be aware of ongoing global events in order to become part of an increasing global environment. Along this journey, students will be exposed to government, economics, geography, historiography and other social sciences. Students will be required to take the following year-long courses, each available on the academic and honors levels in 9th through 12th grades.

#1102/1109 - HISTORICAL INQUIRY - (GRADE 9)

Yearlong Course

Honors/Academic Levels

This course focuses on teaching students how to critically analyze many types of information in order to formulate a cohesive understanding of historical thought. Students will be exposed to the process of historiography and interpretation of events throughout time and how cultures have impacted each other. This Western Cultures course will begin with the Medieval World and progress through modern events, focusing on the impact of forces shaping history.

The honors level course will differ in its focus on analytical writing and outside reading.

#1303/1304 - GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES - (GRADE 10)

Yearlong Course

Honors/Academic Levels

The Global Perspectives course will allow students to gain a deep understanding of the people and events from various regions of the world that have shaped the global community in which we live. The major themes for the course will be: "Different Paths/Different Futures: Communism, Democracy and Dictatorship", "Tools of Change: the Emergence of Non-Violence as a Global Force", "Roots of Unrest: Religion, Nationalism and Extremism" and "Moving Forward: Reclaiming Culture and Identity". These themes will be examined from the perspective of the people from the following cultural regions: Southeast Asia, India, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

The honors level course will differ in its focus on analytical writing and outside reading.

#1491 - ADVANCED PLACEMENT AMERICAN HISTORY (GRADE 11)

Yearlong Course

Honors Level

This challenging college level course covers American History from colonial times to the present. It will help prepare honors students to take the required Advanced Placement Test in May, which may qualify them for advanced standing in college. Extensive outside reading, writing and research are required. Students taking this course will be required to take the AP exam in the spring.

Prerequisite: Grade of an A or B in previous honors-level social studies courses, recommendation of prior Social Studies teacher, successful completion of preliminary summer reading and a written assignment.

#1492/1493 - UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD - (GRADE 11)

Yearlong Course

Honors/Academic Levels

This course will focus on the role the United States plays in the global community from the late 19th century to the early 21st century. Major topics will include: an analysis of both the domestic and international implications of emerging U.S. Influence; economic and social boom, followed by economic collapse, conflict and compromise in both the domestic and global domains; rise of the U.S. influence post World War II, restructured domestic and international responsibilities and relationships post Cold War.

The honors level course will differ in its focus on analytical writing and outside reading.

#1550/1551 - CURRENT WORLD ISSUES - (GRADE 12)

Yearlong Course

Honors/Academic Levels

Current World Issues is a project centered course that includes several simulations, presentations and a culminating major project. Students will spend a considerable amount of time exploring various news sources as they examine their role in an increasingly global community.

In Current World Issues, students will study political science and economics through the lens of current events. Political science topics will include: The Constitution of the United States, elections, the legislative process, comparative government, and the legal system. Economics topics will include: the problem of scarcity, supply and demand, the business cycle, inflation and unemployment, the stock market and personal finance.

Current World Issues is a graduation requirement for all seniors except for those enrolled in AP Economics.

#1300 - SOCIAL STUDIES HISTORICAL INQUIRY - GIFTED* (GRADES 9 - 10)

Yearlong Course

Honors Level

It is recognized that the advanced abilities of gifted/talented students require provision in those areas that contribute to the development of their particular gifts and talents. Criteria for program and student placement will be in accordance with the standards of the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The Grade 9-10 class is inter-disciplinary, with participating teachers from English and Social Studies.

Class activities include independent study, small-group instruction, seminars, creative problem solving and accelerated programs based on individual development. Class time will be shared between curricula in the subject area chosen for credit and the interdisciplinary theme under investigation. Typical themes have included: Bioethics, Brain Research and Learning Theory; Geopolitics; Race, Gender and Ethnicity; Agent of Chaos - Tragedies and Disasters; The Politics of Energy; Sight, Sounds and Impulses; and Futurism.

SOCIAL STUDIES (CON'T)

1691 - ADVANCED PLACEMENT ECONOMICS - (GRADE 12)

Yearlong Course

Honors Level

This is a college-level course in two semesters covering microeconomics and macroeconomics. It is designed to help students prepare to take the Advanced Placement test in May. Topics in microeconomics include: the theory of the firm; cost accounting; competition in the market (perfect, imperfect, monopoly and monopolistic); international trade and exchange; and others. Sample macroeconomics units include: gross national product and variations; national income accounting; monetary and fiscal policy; economic policy relations among nations; and other key concepts included in the AP exam.

Students should be highly motivated and possess good verbal, writing and computational skills. This is a highly intense course covering more than a chapter per week using a college text. Students taking this course will be required to take the AP exam in the Spring.

Prerequisite: *High levels of achievement in previous honors-level Social Studies and Mathematics courses, recommendation of prior Social Studies teacher and successful completion of a preliminary assignment.*

SOCIAL LAB—(GRADE 12)

Yearlong Course

Honors/Academic Level

Social Humanities is the classroom portion of the Social Lab Program. This year-long course meets the Senior Social Studies and English requirements. The class, which is intended to be taught in a team setting, includes units on identity, government, economics, global studies, inequality, marriage and family, foreign policy, religion and sociology. All students are required to read six novels and write frequent themes, papers and reports. Students wishing to take this course for academic honors credit may do so under special contract.

This course, with its possibilities for practical career experience, is recommended for students interested in business, teaching or social service occupations.

ELECTIVES *

#1652 - *PSYCHOLOGY - (GRADES 11-12)

Semester Course

Academic Level

This course includes an overview of the principles of psychology. The content includes human development, personality, abnormal psychology and learning theory. A book report and major project will be required. Class activities will include discussions, readings, lectures, small group work and personal identity searches.

#1658 - *WAR AND PEACE IN HISTORY - (GRADES 11-12)

Semester Course

Academic Level

This is a one-semester elective course for eleventh and twelfth-grade students. It examines human conflict and efforts at peace throughout history. In the first marking period, students will study the origins of conflict, the evolution of military methods and tactics, and how American cultural views conflict. The second marking period will focus on peace movements in history, non-violent revolution and conflict resolution.

This course is for motivated students who are interested in understanding human conflict. It will require independent reading and research assignments focusing on the philosophical questions surrounding the issues of war and peace and their effects on society. Students will participate in simulations, interact with guest speakers, discuss books and articles and complete research reports while participating in this course.

#1891 - *ADVANCED PLACEMENT EUROPEAN HISTORY (GRADES 10-12)

Yearlong Course

Honors Level

This is a college-level course in two semesters covering European History from the 15th Century to the present. It is designed to help prepare students to take the Advanced Placement test in May, which may qualify them for advanced standing in college. Extensive outside reading, writing and research are required. There will be a mandatory preliminary meeting scheduled by the course teacher in the spring semester for all students requesting this course. Students taking this course will be required to take the AP exam in the spring.

Prerequisite: *A's in previous honors-level Social Studies courses, recommendation of prior Social Studies teacher and successful completion of preliminary assignment.*